

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COLUMNIST IN TORONTO STAR OF 26 AUGUST WRITES "U.S. AN
ENGINE OF SOCIAL CHANGE - AND REPRESSION ABROAD" AND CONJECTURES
ON FOREIGN POLICY IF CARTER ELECTED.

IN A SPECIAL TO THE STAR DATED NEW YORK, ERNEST CONINE WRITES IN THE

26 AUGUST TORONTOR STAR THAT ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI WILL PROBABLY BE THE
MOST INFLUENTIAL SHAPER OF FOREIGN POLICY IF CARTER ELECTED PRESIDENT
AND SAYS: "BRZEZINSKI IS KNOWN TO BE DEEPLY MORAL IN HIS APPROACH TO
POLITICS, WITH A STRONG CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CARTER HAS
DISPLAYED THE SAME BENT IN HIS FOREIGN-POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS...IN
A MAJOR SPEECH TO THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION IN NEW YORK, CARTER
SAID...'WE RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS. BUT BY OUR
EXAMPLE, BY OUR UTTERANCES AND BY VARIOUS FORMS OF ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL
PERSUASION AVAILABLE TO USE, WE CAN QUITE SURELY LESSEN THE INJURIES
IN THIS WORLD'...ALL THIS COMES AS A REFRESHING CHANGE FROM THE
'PRAGMATIC' APPROACH OF KISSINGER, WHO FEELS THAT A SERIOUS STATESMAN
CANNOT AFFORD TO LET MORAL INDIGNATION GET IN THE WAY OF EFFORTS
TO ARRANGE A PEACEFUL AND STABLE WORLD ORDER".

CONINE THEN POINTS OUT THE MOST PAINFUL DILEMMA OF U.S. FOREIGN
POLICY: THAT THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHANGE
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DOMESTICALLY RUNS DIRECTLY INTO CONFLICT WITH U.S. ECONOMIC AND

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WHEN ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO APPLY THIS COMMITMENT ABROAD. IT IS ONE THING TO VOICE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND A TOTALLY DIFFERENT MATTER FOR THE U. . TO ACT ON THAT CONCERN IN ITS RELATIONS WITH REPRESSIVE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS; AMERICAN ACTION AGAINST ONE REGIME WILL SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION THROUGH OTHER COUNTRIES THAT COULD DAMAGE U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS (AS REFUSAL OF ARMS SALES TO IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WOULD RISK A RETALIATORY SQUEEZE FROM MIDDLE EAST OIL SUPPLIES.).

THE IRONY IS THAT THE U.S. IS MOST HOSPITABLE TO CHANGE - SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC - AT HOME BUT U.S. CORPORATIONS ABROAD ARE "PRIME MOVERS IN AN INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION PROCESS THAT IS BY ITS VERY NATURE DESTABILIZING." U.S. CORPORATIONS "ARE INTERESTED IN ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS, NEW MARKETS OR ABUNDANT CHEAP LABOR...THEY ARE NOT VERY INTERESTED IN WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED IS DEMOCRATIC OR NOT - AS LONG AS IT IS STABLE SO THAT THE RULES OF THE GAME WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED...THUS U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS, BACKED BY WASHINGTON, END UP AS ALLIES OF THOSE WHO DEFEND THE STATUS QUO EVEN WHEN THE STATUS QUO INCLUDES THE ARREST AND TORTURE OF THOSE WHO AGITATE, AS IN BRAZIL, FOR NOTHING MORE RADICAL THAN HIGHER WAGES AND THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE LABOR UNIONS...U.S. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS DO REQUIRE A STABLE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IF THEY ARE TO MAKE THE INVESTMENTS WITHOUT WHICH LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS MAY NEVER ESCAPE POVERTY".

GIVEN THE IRONIC CONFLICT BETWEEN THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FACT THAT SUCH COMMITMENT CAN THREATEN U.S. INTERESTS ABROAD, "ONE SUSPECTS THAT SUCH REALITIES WILL FORCE CARTER, IF HE IS ELECTED PRESIDENT, TO BE VERY SELECTIVE IN HIS EFFORTS TO 'LESSEN THE INJUSTICE IN THIS WORLD'...BUT IF AMERICANS ARE TO BE TRUE TO THEIR OWN HERITAGE, THEY MUST FIND A WAY TO HEED THE CRY OF A BRAZILIAN CHURCHMAN...'DESPITE YOUR FAULTS YOU HAVE FREEDOM AND JUSTICE IN AMERICA. WE BEG OF YOU, DON'T LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO THOSE WHO DENY THEM TO OUR PEOPLE'".

COMMENT: THERE ARE TWO THINGS WRONG WITH THIS COLUMN IN THE STAR. FOR ONE, ITS ADVOCATION AND UNQUESTIONED ASSUMPTION THAT THE U.S. CAN OR SHOULD SEEK TO APPLY AND EXTEND ITS CONCEPTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, CONCEPTS UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW TO HUMAN HISTORY AND SO FAR CONFINED TO WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA (AS U.S. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN POINTS OUT, OUR CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN SINGULARLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN TAKING ROOT IN ASIA, AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA). IT IS ALSO ETHNOCENTRIC TO ASSUME THAT THE U.S. SHOULD TRY TO UPHOLD ITS OWN CONCEPTS OF HUMAN DIGNITY IN A WORLD WHERE THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE HAVE A RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE THAT WOULD DEFINE "LIFE, LIBERTY AND HAPPINESS" IN TERMS SO DIFFERENT

FROM OUR OWN.THE OTHER WEAKNESS IS WHY A COLUMN IN A VERY
NATIONALISTIC CANADAIN NEWSPAPER SHOULD TROUBLE ITSELF
ABOUT THE EVENTUALITIES OF AN AMERICAN ELECTION AND NOT INSTEAD

ADDRESS ITSELF TO CANADAIN FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY NOW WHEN
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MACEACHEN IS ON A SIGNIFICANT TRIP
THROUGH ASIA.
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